



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2005 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Programs Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region

General Deer Hunting Information For

ZONE X-10

and

Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-19

(Includes Additional Hunt G-38)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone X-10 located in portions of Kern, Tulare and Inyo counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-19; Zone X-10 Archery Hunt), Zone X-10 general season and any "additional hunt" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the San Joaquin Valley and Southern Sierra Region Office, 1234 E. Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710 (559-243-4005).

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/html/regs.html> Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

The 2005 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone X-10 (general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-19 (archery season only tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone X-10, hunters must possess an A-19 hunt tag (Zone X-10 Archery Hunt). This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season and **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even if using archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone X-10, a hunter must possess a Zone X-10 tag. This tag is valid **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-19 archery season, even if using archery equipment.

This zone is a popular deer hunting area with lower tag quotas. Any additional deer hunts in Zone X-10 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for Zone X-10, Hunt A-19 and any additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To hunt in this area, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit hunt applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available on-line at:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

The majority of Zone X-10 is public land administered by the Inyo and Sequoia National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Inyo National Forest, 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514 (760-873-2400)
Sequoia National Forest, 900 West Grand Ave., Porterville, CA 93257 (559-784-1500)

BLM Offices:

Bakersfield Field Office, 3801 Pegasus Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93308 (661-391-6000)
Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 S. Richmond Road, Ridgecrest, CA 93555 (760-384-5400)

In Zone X-10 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Inyo and Sequoia National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. BLM surface management maps can be purchased at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may also be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Major access to Zone X-10 from the east is along the Nine Mile Canyon/Kennedy Meadows Road from Highway 395, approximately two miles north of Pearsonville. From the west, take the Sherman Pass/Black Rock Road off Sierra Way along the Kern River, approximately five miles north of Fairview. Access from the South occurs along the Canebrake/Chimney Peak Road from Highway 178, approximately three miles east of Canebrake. Once in Zone X-10, a number of roads allow access onto public lands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms, but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone X-10 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules

and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of X-10. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are several USFS campgrounds within Zone X-10 and these are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source on public lands within California; or any wildlife watering place such as waterholes, springs, seeps and man-made watering devices within the California Desert Conservation Area on BLM land is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone X-10 is considered stable, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone X-10 include both the Inyo and California mule deer. The deer that occupy the higher elevations of Zone X-10 are migratory. They reside on their summer ranges until they are stimulated to migrate down slope to their wintering habitats. Habitat quality and quantity, temperature, day length and weather conditions all play a part in determining when these deer will complete their fall migrations. Generally, from mid-October, or later, any significant winter storm has the potential to cause some migratory deer to move from summer range to lower elevations. If those storms are mild, some deer may delay in intermediate range, seeking acorns and other available fall forage. If severe enough, a single storm may result in the migration of a large percentage of the animals from the higher elevations, down slope to winter range habitat.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone X-10 ranging from sagebrush, bitterbrush, mixed chaparral, aspen, hardwood-conifer and pinyon-juniper to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of

hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Most of the deer taken during the Zone X-10 hunts are found in the northern regions of this Zone on the Tulare side of the Tulare/Inyo Counties line. The majority of this area is within the Southern Sierra Wilderness and the adjacent Monache Meadow Complex. The location of deer is very weather-dependent with animals tending toward the West of this area until migration starts, including the areas around Monache Meadows, Granite Knob and Smith Meadows. Specific sites that hunters may wish to investigate later in the season include Dutch John Flat, Honeybee Creek, Deer Mountain and meadows from Round Mountain to Olancha Peak, as well as the Monache Meadow Complex.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2005, one additional hunt opportunity exists in Zone X-10: 1) Hunt G-38 (Zone X-10 Late Season Buck Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/deer_maps.html

2005 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(b) X-Zone Hunts.

(16) Zone X-10.

(A) Area: In those portions of Kern, Tulare and Inyo counties within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 178 and the Doyle Ranch Road in the town of Onyx; north along the Doyle Ranch Road to the South Fork of the Kern River; north along the South Fork of the Kern River to the Chimney Meadow-Blackrock Station Road (Forest Road 21S03); northwest along the Chimney Meadow-Blackrock Station Road through Troy Meadows to the road's end at the Inyo and Sequoia National Forest boundary near Blackrock Mountain; northwest along the Inyo and Sequoia National Forest boundary to the main Kern River; northwest along the main Kern River to the Sequoia National Park boundary; northeast along the Sequoia National Park boundary to the Inyo-Tulare county line; southeast along the Inyo-Tulare county line to the Cottonwood Pass Trail at Cottonwood Pass; east along the Cottonwood Pass Trail through Horseshoe Meadow to the Horseshoe Meadow Road; north along the Horseshoe Meadow Road to Cottonwood Creek; southeast along Cottonwood Creek to Highway 395; south along Highway 395 to Highway 14; south along Highway 14 to Highway 178; north and west along Highway 178 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season in Zone X-10 shall open on the last Saturday in September and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 400.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(14) G-38 (X-10 Late Season Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: In those portions of Kern, Tulare, and Inyo counties within a line beginning at the intersection of Highway 178 and the Doyle Ranch Road in the town of Onyx; north along the Doyle Ranch Road to the South Fork of the Kern River; north along the South Fork of the Kern River to the Chimney Meadow-Blackrock Station Road (Forest Road 21S03); northwest along the Chimney Meadow-Blackrock Station Road through Troy Meadows to the road's end at the Inyo and Sequoia National Forest boundary near Blackrock Mountain; northwest along the Inyo and Sequoia National Forest boundary to the main Kern River; northwest along the main Kern River to the Sequoia National Park boundary; northeast along the Sequoia National Park boundary to the Inyo-Tulare county line; southeast along the Inyo-Tulare county line to the Cottonwood Pass Trail at Cottonwood Pass; east along the Cottonwood Pass Trail through Horseshoe Meadow to the Horseshoe Meadow Road; north along the Horseshoe Meadow Road to Cottonwood Creek; southeast along Cottonwood Creek to Highway 395; south along Highway 395 to Highway 14; south along Highway 14 to Highway 178; north and west along Highway 178 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-38 (X-10 Late Season Buck Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in October and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 300.

(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(17) A-19 (Zone X-10 Archery Hunt).

(A) Area: As described in subsection 360(b)(16)(A).

(B) Season: The archery season for hunt A-19 (Zone X-10 Archery Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 120.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****